

Dear Colleague:

As you may know, I today announced my resignation as Secretary of Energy. This was not an easy decision, but one that I concluded was best for my family.

The last four years have been an exhilarating and rewarding time for me. I am enormously proud of the missions and employees of the Department of Energy, and grateful to those many people outside of the agency who have given freely of their time to offer advice and insight as part of serving on various advisory committees. And, all of us, I think, can look back on the last four years and be proud of significant advances we have made together in implementing the President's agenda of national security and management reforms.

Nonetheless, Jane and I have concluded that the time has come for us to make a change. One of the challenges of public life is properly balancing the demands of one's job with the family and personal commitments one faces. As you know, we have three elementary school-age children and these past four years have posed significant challenges on our family in many ways. Looking ahead, Jane and I have concluded that these challenges will be very difficult to address consistent with the commitment called for in the Energy Secretary's post. Accordingly, and with the utmost respect, I have decided that it will not be possible for me to continue to serve as Energy Secretary. Therefore, I have submitted my resignation from this post, to the President, to become effective upon the confirmation of my successor.

I am extraordinarily grateful to President Bush for giving me the opportunity to serve in this post. And I am equally grateful to those of you who work in the DOE family who have ensured that this agency's important missions are carried out in the best traditions of professional public service.

Thank you.